

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the title of the application as follows:

SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PROVIDING A FUEL PURCHASE INCENTIVE ~~WITH THE SALE OF A VEHICLE~~

Please replace the Abstract with the following paragraph:

A fuel purchase incentive is provided, ~~incident to the sale of a vehicle. With respect to the sale of an automobile, the incentive consists of a program price, for example a discount price or a capped maximum price, for a specified quantity of a specified brand and type of gasoline. The incentive is calculated as a function of the anticipated fuel use factors of the automobile buyer. The incentive information is provided to the buyer at the time of purchase of the automobile and stored for use by an incentive program operator. When the buyer purchases gasoline pursuant to the incentive program, the buyer recognizes the program price through the provision of a rebate, credit, real time discount or other appropriate mechanism. Program sponsors may participate in the fuel incentive program, for example providing a payment(s) to the program operator in exchange for establishing a relationship with a customer under the program. The program operator may hedge the financial risks associated with the volatility of fuel prices. Different mechanisms are provided whereby the customer may identify himself as a program participant, select a payment mechanism or account under the program and receive the program price. The invention has application to vehicles other than automobiles and fuels other than gasoline.~~ In one embodiment, a hedge program may be developed to offset the risk associated with guaranteeing the price of the fuel.

Please amend paragraph 0001 of the application, as published, as follows:

This application is a continuation-in-part application of U.S. application ~~entitled "System and Method for Providing a Fuel Purchase Incentive with the Sale of a Vehicle" by Richard Hajdukiewicz Serial No. 09/819,338, filed Mar. March 28, 2001.~~

Please amend paragraph 0010 of the application, as published, as follows:

In U.S. patent application ~~serial # [by Hajdukiewicz, Richard filed April [] 2001]~~ Serial No. 09/819,338 there are provided systems and methods for providing vehicle purchase incentive programs that cap or lower the cost of fuel as an operating cost to the buyer. Such programs directly lower the cost of vehicle ownership to provide a significant purchase incentive to a buyer. The costs associated with providing such programs, however, may be significant. The volatile nature of fuel oil costs may also make the ultimate cost of such programs somewhat unpredictable.